

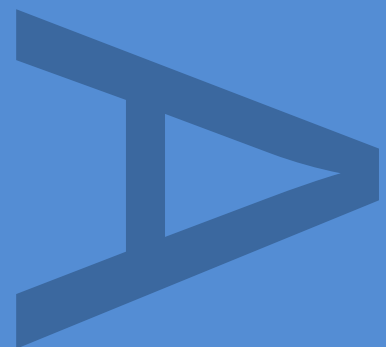
**ST JOSEPH'S RC CHURCH
HIGH STREET, ST MARY CRAY
LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PCA REPORT NO: R11625

SITE CODE: SJR14

FEBRUARY 2014



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

An Archaeological Evaluation St Joseph's RC Church, High Street, St Mary Cray, London Borough of Bromley

Site Code: SJR 14

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 4711 6741

Planning Reference: DC/13/01109/MATAMD

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

ST JOSEPH'S RC CHURCH,
ST MARY CRAY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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1 ABSTRACT

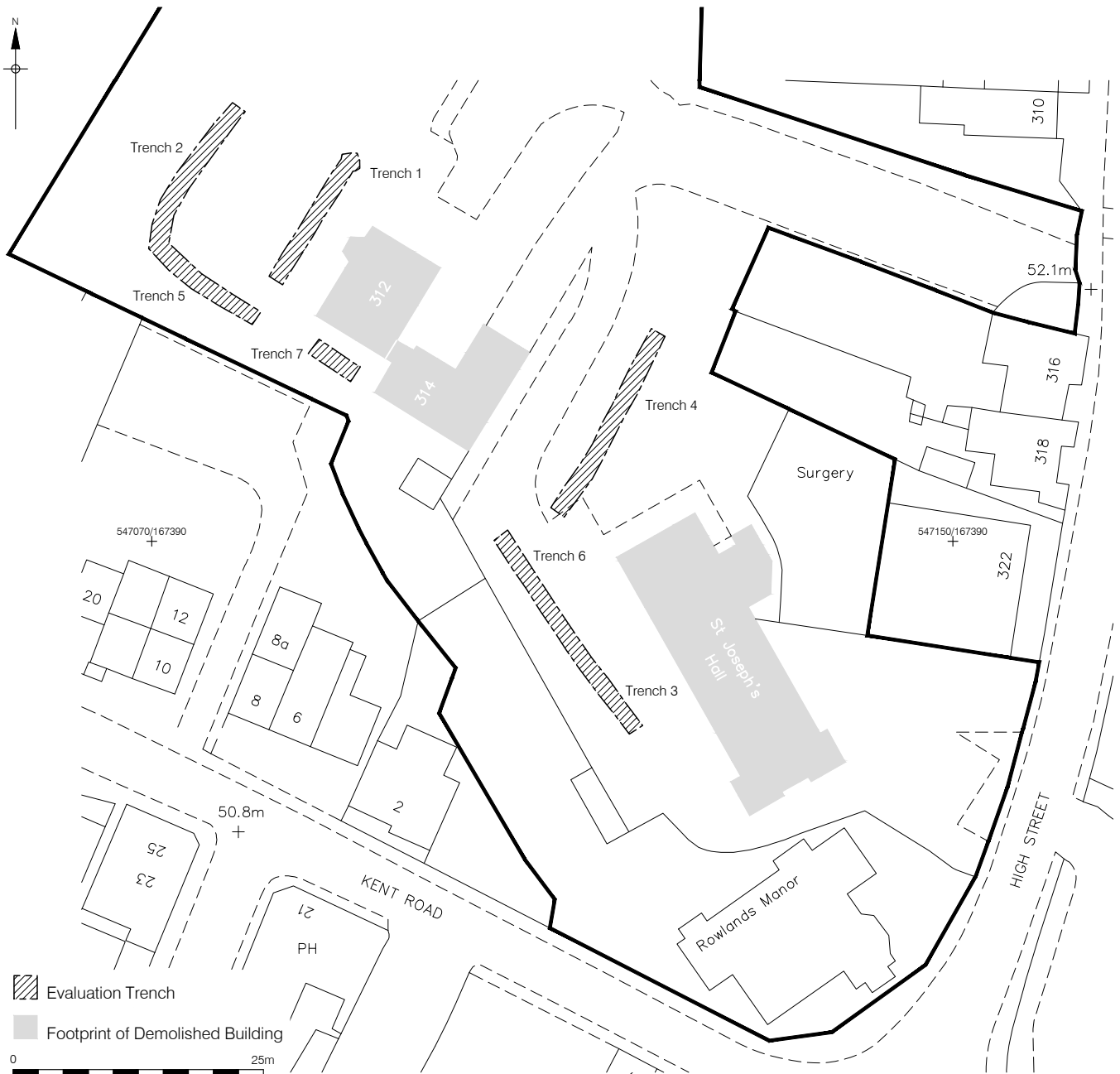
- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited between the 20th and 24th of January 2014 at St Joseph's RC Church, High Street St Mary Cray, London Borough of Bromley.
- 1.2 Seven evaluation trenches were excavated across the site. The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site, to determine the presence or absence of any surviving archaeology and how the proposed works would or would not affect those remains.
- 1.3 Archaeological features dating to prehistoric and Roman periods were recorded during the evaluation, the details of which are set out below. All the features were underlain by the natural gravel deposits of the area.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited between the 20th and 24th of January 2014 at St Joseph's RC Church, High Street St Mary Cray, London Borough of Bromley, (Fig. 1). The project was designed and managed by Tim Bradley of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and was commissioned by The Trustees of RC Diocese of Southwark. The site was supervised by Guy Seddon.
- 2.2 The work by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd followed on from a Watching Brief conducted by ODAS (Orpington and District Archaeological Society) in 2010, on the adjoining area of the new Roman Catholic church.
- 2.3 The evaluation was conducted prior to the construction of a presbytery and new housing development.
- 2.4 The site is situated immediately to the northwest of the junction between Kent Road and the High Street. It was centred on National Grid Reference TQ 4711 6741.



Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



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 03/02/14 HB

Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:625 at A4

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The evaluation was conducted according to the Specification¹ drawn up by Mark Stevenson of English Heritage and the Written Scheme of Investigation² proposal prepared by Tim Bradley of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The fieldwork was designed to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, which may require further investigation.
- 3.2 The initial methodology allowed for six evaluation trenches but due to the presence of TPOs, (Tree Preservation Orders) and the fact that two of the trenches were to be excavated in back gardens adjoining the site and as yet not acquired by the client, the trench layout was reconfigured on site. This led to Trenches 3 and 6 being amalgamated into one large trench and an extra additional short trench, (Trench 7) being excavated near to an area of known archaeological interest. Trenches 2 and 5 were also merged for the same reason.
- 3.3 A mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide flat ditching bucket was used under archaeological supervision to remove non-archaeological soils down to the highest archaeological horizon or natural level. In total seven archaeological evaluation trenches were opened across the site (figure 2).
- 3.4 Following the opening of the trenches they were cleaned and all features identified were investigated by hand. Investigation was intended to identifying the extent and nature of the deposits and to recover dating evidence. The deposits, fills, and features were assigned individual context numbers.
- 3.5 Heights above Ordnance Datum were established on site by traversing from a local benchmark to establish a temporary benchmark within the site at 51.32m OD.
- 3.6 Upon the completion of the archaeological and contamination work the trenches were then backfilled under archaeological supervision.

¹ Stevenson 2009

² Bradley 2010, revised 2014

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The archaeological programme was initially undertaken in pursuance to planning condition 13 attached to planning permission 09/02991. This has now been superseded by a Non Material Amendment which was granted planning consent on 23rd August 2013. The new planning reference is DC/13/01109/MATAMD, with planning condition 14 of the consent relating to archaeological issues.
- 4.2 A brief was prepared by English Heritage³, which outlined the proposed strategy of the works pertaining to the new church facilities being monitored by members of ODAS (completed in 2010), whilst the housing development zone (area closest to the known archaeology) was subject to an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken by PCA.

³Stevenson, M. 2009. Brief for the archaeological evaluation of St. Joseph's R.C. Church, High Street, St. Mary Cray, Orpington, London Borough of Bromley. English Heritage, London Region unpublished report

5 GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The site lies in the River Cray Valley, some 200m east of the river. The majority of the site is located on flat land at the top of the ridge at c. 52.77m OD, though towards the west it starts to slope down towards the river to a height of 50.88m OD. There are no water courses or bodies of water within the site.
- 5.2 The British Geological Survey (England and Wales Sheet 271) indicates that the underlying geology of the site is formed of a natural River Terrace deposit of Taplow Gravel. No geotechnical investigations are known to have been conducted upon the site.
- 5.3 The evaluation revealed natural gravel across the site. This remained at a height of c. 52m OD across the majority of the area but started to slope sharply downwards in the north-eastern corner, towards the River Cray, with a minimum height of 49.62m OD. This was overlain by topsoil in every trench, which in Trench 2/5 was overlain by a considerable thickness of made ground.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The site is located within the Cray Valley that gives form to the archaeological priority area as defined within the Bromley Borough Council Unitary Development Plan. The valley has been the focus of human activity through prehistory and historic periods including the site of a Saxon battle.
- 6.2 The site is adjacent to an area developed in 1982 within which a small plot was excavated by members of the local archaeological group, Orpington and District Archaeological Society, ODAS. The excavation included a Roman ditch and a single sunken-floored structure, (an Anglo Saxon Grubenhaus). In addition to similar evidence anticipated to occur within the area, there would be a strong potential for sub-Roman material to also be present.
- 6.3 The watching brief conducted by ODAS during the construction of the new church, on land immediately to the east of the site, was devoid of any finds or features of archaeological interest. It was considered that the 1959 ground lowering and church building operations, combined with the thorough removal of the 1959 church foundations, had removed all archaeological soils (probably ca. 0.50m deep) over the whole new church and church hall area. The work recorded natural sandy gravels, clays and flints cut down to varying depths with modern dumping directly on top across.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

7.1 Trench 1

Phase 1: Natural

7.1.1 The earliest horizon encountered within this trench were the natural gravels [29] that formed the basal limit of excavation. This was composed of loosely compacted mid yellow and brown gravel within a slightly sandy matrix and was located at a height of 50.28m OD.

Phase 2: Prehistoric

7.1.2 A single pit, [31] was located against the north-western limit of excavation, (LOE) of Trench 1. It measured 1.65m NE-SW, more than 0.57m NW-SE, continuing beyond the LOE and had a depth of 0.19m. Its sides broke sharply from the surface, falling at c. 50° from horizontal, concaving in towards a slightly concaved base. It contained a single fill, [30] which was a firmly compacted, light-mid grey clayey silt with occasional-moderate inclusions of small-medium sized sub-angular and sub-rounded stones. The only finds retrieved were burnt flints.

Phase 4: Modern

7.1.3 Sealing the trench was a layer of topsoil, [28] which had a thickness of 0.65m.

7.2 Trench 2/5

Phase 1: Natural

7.2.1 The natural gravels, [41] were the earliest horizon recorded within this trench. They took the same form as [29] in Trench 1, falling from a height of 50.15m OD, at the south-eastern end of Trench 5 to 49.45m OD in the north-western corner of Trench 2.

7.2.2 At the south-eastern end of Trench 5 a layer of brickearth, [40] was recorded overlying the gravels. As natural deposits of brickearth are known to overlie the natural gravels in the vicinity of the study site, [40] has been interpreted as such. However due to the archaeological activity in the area there is a possibility that the brickearth could be part of a floor surface from a later phase. Unfortunately this could not be resolved during the evaluation.

Phase 2: Prehistoric

7.2.3 Three ditches, [19], [24] and [27], pit, [35] and two probable postholes, [37] and [39] were recorded within Trench 2/5 and were ascribed to the prehistoric period.

- 7.2.4 Ditch [19] was located at the intersection of Trenches 2 and 5 and was linear in plan, running on an east-west alignment. Its steep sides broke sharply from the surface falling at c. 80° from horizontal and broke sharply onto a flat base. It had a width of 3.10m, a depth of 0.70m and a length of over 2m, as it continued outside the bounds of the trench. The fill of the ditch, [18], was a firm-compact mixture of mid-dark greyish brown sandy gravels and clayey silts. The excavator noted that the fill was indicative of a collapsed bank, the remnant of which, [25] could be seen to the south of the ditch. Struck flints were recovered from the fill, including a blade from context technologically most characteristic of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic industries. The associated possible bank, [25], which lay to the south of the ditch was comprised of firmly compacted dark greyish brown fine sandy clayey silt with frequent inclusions of small-medium sized flints and occasional large flints. It had a remaining width of 1.40m, (being truncated to the south by a later ditch) and a thickness of 0.15m.
- 7.2.5 Cutting through bank [25] was ditch [24]. This was unexcavated due to time limits on the evaluation. It had a width of 1.27m and lay on a northwest-southeast alignment. The associated fill, [23] was a firm-compact mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt containing gravels and flint nodules.
- 7.2.6 Ditch [27] lay at the north-eastern end of Trench 2 and ran on a northeast-southwest alignment. The sides broke sharply from the surface, falling steeply to a flattish base. It contained a single fill, [28] which was comprised of firmly compacted mid greyish brown sandy silts mixed with gravels and small-medium sized sub-angular flints. No finds were retrieved.
- 7.2.7 Pit [35] was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.90m and a depth of 0.20m. The sides of the pit had a moderate break of slope from the surface and a moderate break to a flat base. The single fill of the pit, [34] was a loosely compacted dark greyish brown clayey silt with frequent inclusions of small to medium sized flints and occasional large flints. No finds were retrieved.
- 7.2.8 Postholes [37] and [39] were located close together at the south-eastern end of Trench 5. Both these features had steep sides, breaking sharply from the surface and had had flat bases. [37] was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.70m and a depth of 0.06m whereas [39] was sub-circular, measuring 0.50m N-S by 0.36m E-W and had a depth of 0.14m. [36], the fill of posthole [37] was loosely compacted, mid greyish brown silty coarse sand with frequent inclusions of small to medium sized flints. [38], the fill of [39], was also loosely compacted but was composed of a mid yellow, greyish brown mixture of brickearth and sandy silt. No finds were retrieved from either feature.

Phase 3: Roman

- 7.2.9 Pit [33] was observed to the north-east of Trench 2. It was circular in plan with a diameter of 1.10m and a depth of 0.26m. The sides had a moderate break of slope from the surface and a moderate break to a flat base. It held a single fill [32], a firmly compacted dark greyish brown clayey silt with frequent inclusions of small to medium sized flints which contained sherds of pottery which were dated to between 43 and 400 AD.

Phase 4: Modern

- 7.2.10 The archaeological horizon was sealed by a layer of topsoil [16], 0.24m thick over which lay a 0.50m thick deposit of made ground, [15].

7.3 Trench 3/6

Phase 1: Natural

- 7.3.1 The natural deposits exposed in Trench 3/6, [2] were the same gravels as observed elsewhere on site. They were at their highest level at the south-eastern end of the trench at 52.18m OD, steadily falling towards the north-western end, with a level of 51.71m OD.

Phase 3: Roman

- 7.3.2 Trench 3/6 contained two ditches [4] and [8] both of which were linear and ran on an east-west alignment, and a posthole [6]. All of these features were dated to the Roman period.
- 7.3.3 The sides of the ditch [4] broke sharply from the surface and fell steeply towards the base. There was a moderate break of slope to a concaved base. The base itself possibly showed evidence of posts being erected within the feature, though this could have just been root damage to the base and it was not possible to clarify this within the scope of the evaluation. It ran across the trench for a distance of 2.54m, extending beyond the LOE to the east and the west and had a depth of 0.72m. The ditch contained a single fill [3], which was comprised of firmly compacted dark brown clayey silt with moderate inclusions of small to medium sized sub-angular and sub-rounded stones and contained sherds of pottery dating to between 43 and 250 AD.
- 7.3.4 Ditch [8] ran across Trench 3/6 for a distance of 2.54m, also extending beyond the LOE, to the east and the west. It had a width of 4.20m and a depth of over 0.50m, (not being fully excavated due to H&S considerations). The sides of the ditch broke sharply from the surface, with the southern side appearing steeper than the northern one. Only a single fill, [7] was excavated which was firmly compacted, dark brown

clayey silt with occasional inclusions of small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones. Despite only digging a small slot through the ditch, down to a depth of 0.50m it contained frequent finds including sherds of pottery dating to 120 and 200AD. There was also ceramic building material dated to between 71 and 160 AD, struck flint, possibly residual and a large lump of iron slag that may have been a furnace bottom.

- 7.3.5 Cut into the southern edge of ditch [8] was posthole [6]. It had a diameter of 0.35m and a depth of 0.51 and was circular in plan with the sides sharply breaking from the surface, falling at c. 90° from horizontal to a concaved base. [5], the fill of posthole [6] was a firmly compacted, dark brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of small-medium sized sub-angular and sub-rounded stones, in fact very similar in nature to [7], the fill of ditch [8].

Phase 4: Modern

- 7.3.4 Sealing the archaeological horizon was a layer of topsoil, [1] which was 0.53m thick, this was in turn sealed by the concrete and tarmac of the current day road.

7.4 Trench 4

Phase 1: Natural

- 7.4.1 The natural gravels, [10], were exposed within the base of the trench, the highest point of which was 51.81m OD at the western end, sloping gradually down to a height of 51.68m OD to the east.

Phase 3: Roman

- 7.4.2 Two features were excavated in Trench 4, ditch [12] and posthole [14], and both dated to the Roman period.
- 7.4.3 Ditch [12] had a north-south alignment, with sides that broke sharply from the ground surface and fell steeply a c. 80° from horizontal, concaving slightly towards the base creating a moderate break to a flattish base. It had a width of 1.17m, a depth of 0.51m and ran across Trench 4 for a distance of 2.15m, continuing beyond both the northern and southern LOEs of the trench. It was filled by [11], a firmly compacted dark brown clayey silt with occasional inclusions of small to medium sized sub-angular and sub-rounded stones. It contained sherds of pottery and cbm dated to 70-160 AD and 50-160 AD respectively.
- 7.4.4 Posthole [14] was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.58m and a depth of 0.12m. The sides broke sharply from the surface and fell steeply, with a sharp break to a flat base. It contained a single fill [13], which was firmly compacted, dark brown clayey

silt with occasional inclusions of small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. A sherd of pottery dating to between 42 and 300 AD was recovered from the fill.

Phase 4: Modern

- 7.4.5 Overlying the archaeology was a layer of topsoil [9], 0.60m thick, which was in turn sealed by the concrete and tarmac of the current day road surface.

7.5 Trench 7

Phase 1: Natural

- 7.5.1 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 7 was the natural gravel, [21] as identified across the site. These lay at a height of 50.84m OD. At the south-eastern end of the trench the gravels were sealed by a layer of brickearth, [22], which had a height of 50.76m OD. As in Trench 5 this has been interpreted as natural, though there is a possibility that it could be a floor layer from a later phase.

Phase 4: Modern

- 7.5.2 Sealing the natural deposits was a layer of topsoil, [20] that had a thickness of 0.50m

8 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

8.1 Phase 1: Natural

8.1.1 The natural gravel deposits that underlay the site were exposed in all of the trenches. Brickearth layers, probably of natural origin were also recorded in Trenches 5 and 7. Levels recorded at the surface of the gravels ranged from 52m OD in the south-east of the study site falling to 49.62m OD in the north-west

8.1.2 The brickearth deposits directly overlay the gravels and were recorded at 50.21m OD in Trench 5 and 50.76m OD in Trench 7. These deposits were recorded as natural, as it is known to occur in the locale of the study site, however due to the nature of the archaeology in the immediate vicinity it has to be noted that there is a possibility that they are the remnants of floor surfaces relating to a later phase.

8.2 Phase 2: Prehistoric

8.2.1 The prehistoric activity appeared to be concentrated to the north-western trenches of the site, Trenches 1 and 2/5 and took the form of pits, ditches and postholes. The earliest ditch in the sequence, [19] appeared to be an east-west aligned ditch in Trench 2/5, with very steep sides and a possible bank, [25] on the southern side. Flints recovered from the fill suggest a possible Mesolithic if early Neolithic date for this feature.

8.2.2 Northeast-southwest aligned ditch [24] cut through the bank [25], placing it later in the sequence. This feature was not excavated so the dating cannot be refined here.

8.2.3 Ditch [27] had a northwest-southeast alignment, running perpendicular to ditch [24]. It is possible that being of similar sizes they form part of the same system or enclosure. Although excavated no finds were retrieved from the fill of ditch [27].

8.2.4 Of the remaining features in this phase, pits [31] and [35] and postholes [37] and [39], only pit [31] produced any finds and this was in the form of burnt flint. The general dearth of finds and the burnt flint is indicative of prehistoric activity which is why these features have been tentatively ascribed to this phase.

8.3 Phase 3: Roman

8.3.1 The Roman activity appeared to be confined in the south-eastern Trenches, 3/6 and 4, apart from pit [33] in Trench 2/5 at the very north-west of the site.

8.3.2 The Roman archaeology that was identified was all dated by pottery and cbm to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. The predominant feature was ditch [8] in north-western end of Trench 3/6. Measuring over 4m across with a possible palisade running along its southern side, as evidenced by posthole [6], it could well be defensive in nature, enclosing land at the top of the ridgeline overlooking the River Cray.

8.3.3 Ditches [4] in Trench 3/6 and [12] in Trench 4 run almost perpendicular to each other raising the possibility that they form part of the same enclosure.

8.3.4 Posthole [14] was located at the north-eastern end of Trench 4, showing Roman activity extending in that direction.

8.4 Phase 4: Modern

8.4.1 Overlying the archaeological horizon in all of the trenches was a layer of topsoil which in turn was sealed by a thick layer of made ground over the area of Trench 2/5, which probably corresponds with the 20th century development of the site.

9 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

9.1 The following research objectives were put forth in the Written Scheme of Investigation and these can now be addressed:

9.1.1 *What evidence can be revealed of the natural strata and its' topography at the site?*

The natural strata of the site corresponds with what is known locally of Taplow Gravel, overlain in areas by brickearth. The evaluation has proved that later landscaping changed the natural topography of the site, raising the ground level to the north, effectively levelling the area, where naturally it would have started to drop down towards the River Cray.

9.1.2 *Is there any evidence of prehistoric remains at the site?*

Pits, ditches and postholes, likely to relate to the prehistoric period were all identified on the site. The prehistoric activity recorded appears to be confined to the north-western area of the study site and is indicative of enclosures and settlement.

9.1.3 *Is there any further evidence of the significant Roman activity previously recorded immediately to the west during the 1982 excavation?*

Pits, ditches and postholes relating to the Roman period were recorded across the site, concentrating in the southern most Trenches, 3/6 and 4. The dating indicates predominantly early occupation within the Roman period, 1st-2nd century. The large ditch [8] in Trench 3/6 is obviously of some importance as its size and probable revetting on the southern side is indicative of an enclosure of high. The amount of occupational evidence recovered from the features of this date, pottery, cbm and animal bone strongly suggests settlement in the immediate vicinity.

If ditches [4], in Trench 3/6 and [12] in Trench 4 do form part of the same enclosure then they will either cut or be cut by the large ditch [8] showing at least two separate phases of Roman activity on site in the 1st-2nd century.

Observations made by Alan Hart, site director of the 1982 ODAS investigations, following his site visit during the evaluation exercise, include that comparisons could be drawn between ditch [8] and the ditch recorded in 1982. It was a fairly similar size (the ODAS ditch as truncated was 1.1m deep and 2.1m wide) with similar dark fill with frequent of pottery (although of a potentially later 2nd-early 3rd) and a similar rounded V-shape. Ditch [8] appeared however not to run in the same direction as the earlier

ODAS ditch, suggesting that there could be a return near the end of Kent Road, or that the ODAS ditch represents a later phase of activity.

9.1.4 *Is there any evidence for medieval activity in the area of the site?*

There was no evidence for medieval activity on the site. This is surprising because of the discovery of an Anglo-Saxon Grubenhaus, with a wealth of occupational material, was recorded cutting into the ditch discussed above on the adjoining site by ODAS in 1982.

9.1.5 *Is there any evidence for post-medieval activity in the area of the site?*

There was no evidence of post-medieval activity in the area of the site.

9.1.6 The archaeological evaluation has therefore produced evidence of prehistoric activity, apparently contained within the western area of the site, with Roman features, including a large possible enclosure ditch, further to the west on the higher plateau of land. The investigation of Trench 7 suggests that within the previous housing footprints truncation of archaeological features is likely to be significant, with only the deepest cut features likely to survive modern truncation.

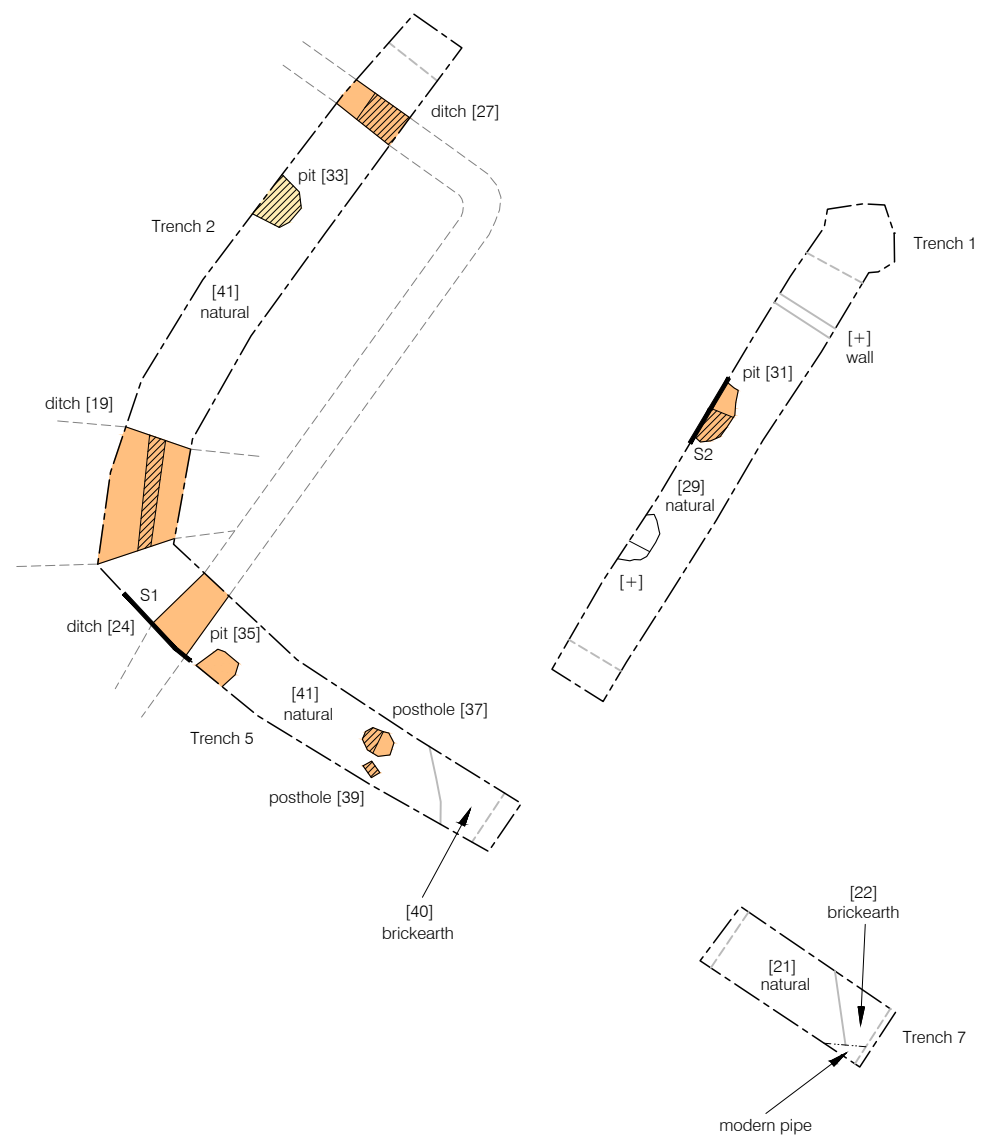
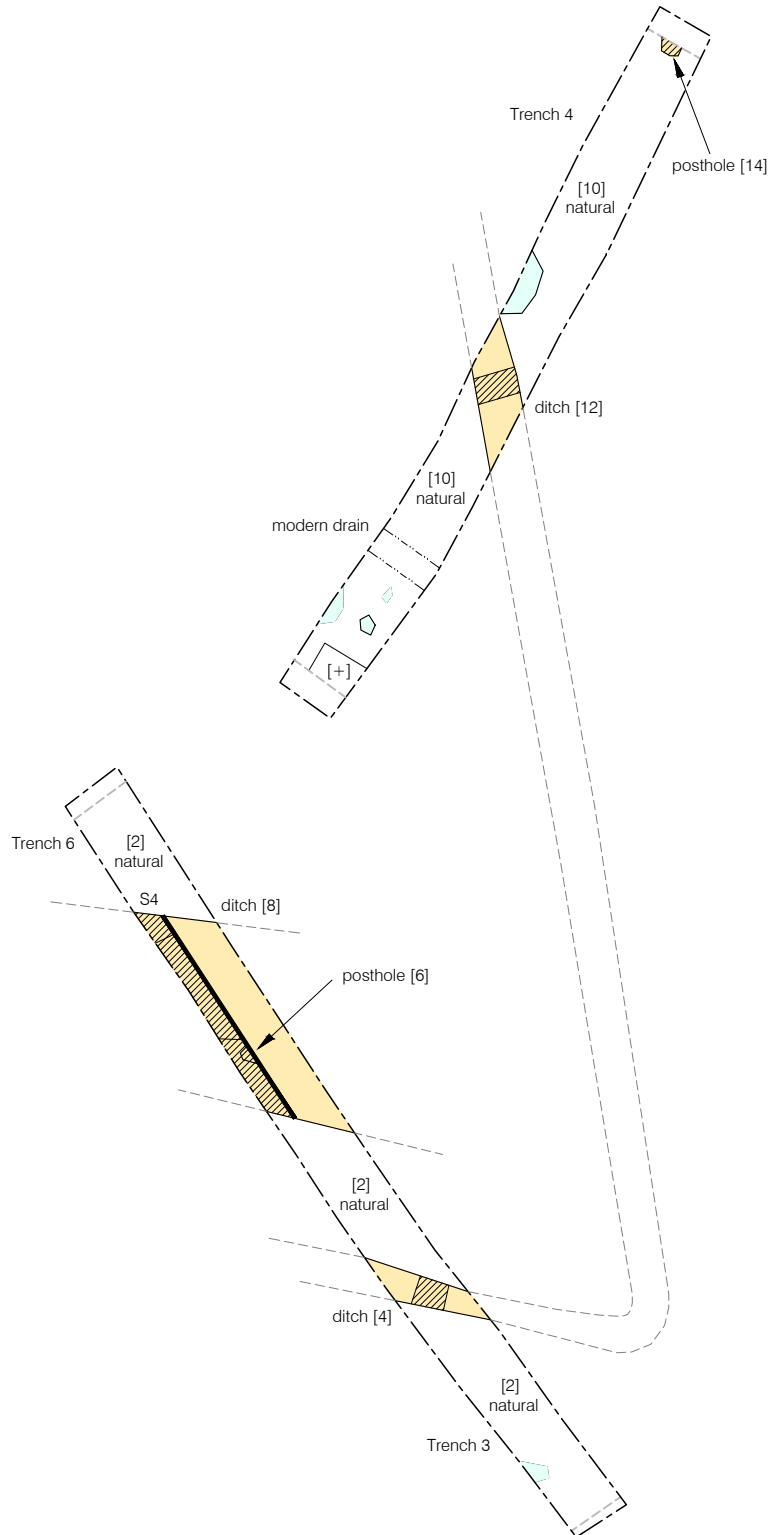





Figure 3
Plan of Trenches 1, 2/5 & 7
1:200 at A4

Excavated
Prehistoric; Phase 2 features
Roman; Phase 3 features

0 10m

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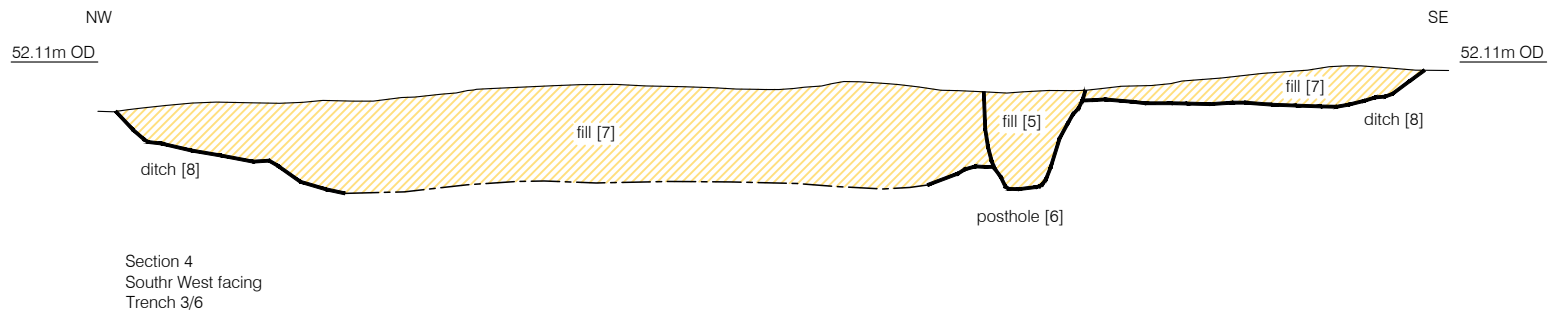
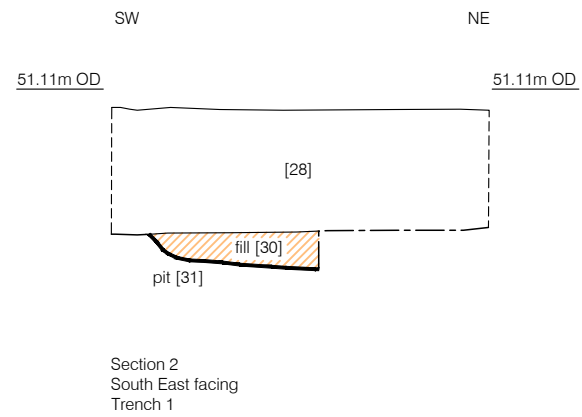
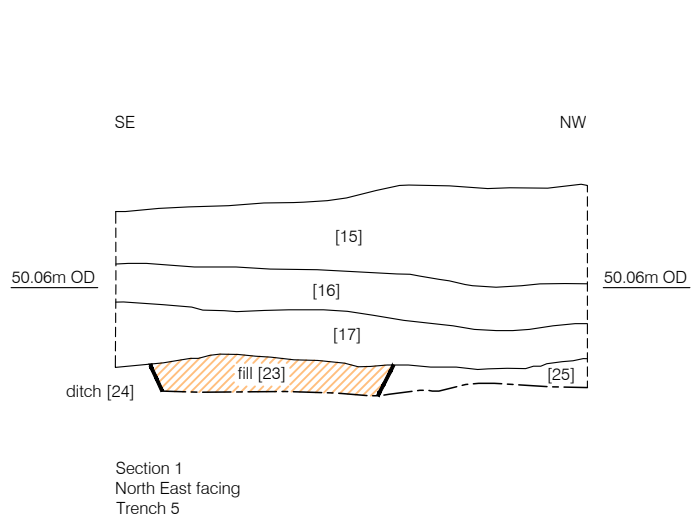



-  Excavated
-  Roman; Phase 3 features
-  Unexcavated features, Undated

0 10m

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Figure 4
Plan of Trenches 3 & 4/6
1:200 at A4



 Prehistoric; Phase 2 features


 Roman; Phase 3 features



Figure 5
Sections 1, 2 & 4
1:40 at A4

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank The Trustees of RC Diocese of Southwark for commissioning the work, and to the crew on site for their assistance. We would also like to thank Mark Stevenson of English Heritage for his help in designing and monitoring the project.
- 10.2 The author would like to thank Jim Heathcote for his help in the field, Richard Archer for the survey, Chris Cooper for organising the logistics, Kevin Hayward, James Gerrard and Barry Bishop for dating the finds, Hayley Baxter for the illustrations and Tim Bradley for his project management and editing.

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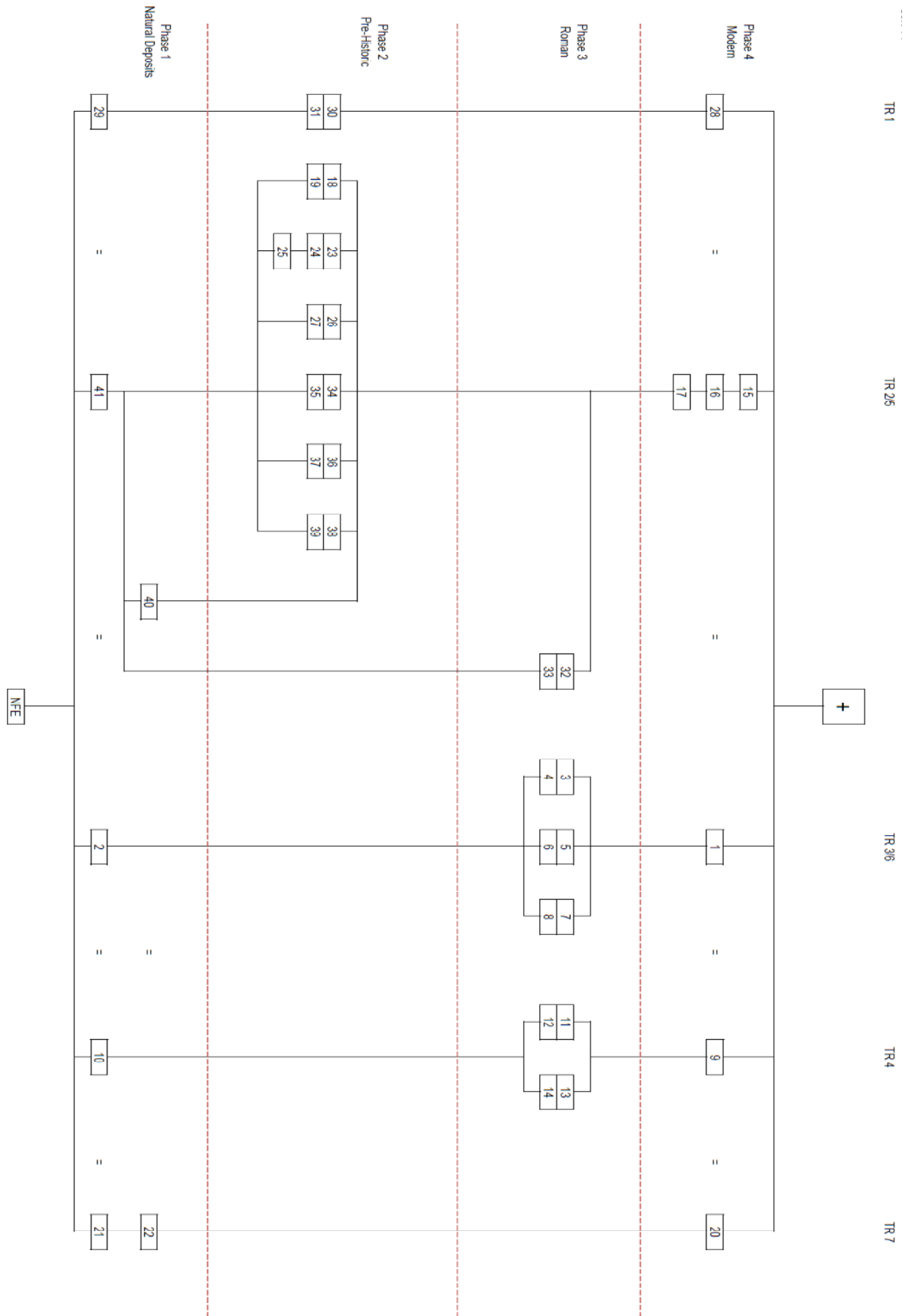
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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Trench	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase
SJR 14	1	3/6	*		Layer	Topsoil	Modern	4
SJR 14	2	3/6	Survey		Layer	Natural Gravels	Natural	1
SJR 14	3	3/6	Survey		Fill	Fill of [4]	Roman	3
SJR 14	4	3/6	Survey		Cut	Cut of Ditch/Gully	Roman	3
SJR 14	5	3/6	Survey		Fill	Fill of [6]	Roman	3
SJR 14	6	3/6	Survey		Cut	Cut of Posthole	Roman	3
SJR 14	7	3/6	Survey		Fill	Fill of [8]	Roman	3
SJR 14	8	3/6	Survey		Cut	Cut of Large Ditch	Roman	3
SJR 14	9	4	*		Layer	Topsoil	Modern	4
SJR 14	10	4	Survey		Layer	Natural Gravels	Natural	1
SJR 14	11	4	Survey		Fill	Fill of [12]	Roman	3
SJR 14	12	4	Survey		Cut	Cut of Ditch	Roman	3
SJR 14	13	4	Survey		Fill	Fill of [14]	Roman	3
SJR 14	14	4	Survey		Cut	Cut of Posthole	Roman	3
SJR 14	15	2/5	*		Layer	Made Ground	Modern	4
SJR 14	16	2/5	*		Layer	Topsoil	Modern	4
SJR 14	17	2/5	*		Layer	Subsoil	Natural	1
SJR 14	18	2/5	Survey		Fill	Fill of [19]	Pre-Historic	2
SJR 14	19	2/5	Survey		Cut	Cut of Ditch	Pre-Historic	2
SJR 14	20	7	*		Layer	Topsoil	Modern	4
SJR 14	21	7	Survey		Layer	Natural Gravels	Natural	1
SJR 14	22	7	Survey		Layer	Brickearth	Natural	1
SJR 14	23	2/5	Survey		Fill	Fill of [24]	Pre-Historic	2
SJR 14	24	2/5	Survey		Cut	Cut of Ditch	Pre-Historic	2
SJR 14	25	2/5	*		Layer	Bank Upcast	Pre-Historic	2
SJR 14	26	2/5	Survey		Fill	Fill of [27]	Pre-Historic	2
SJR 14	27	2/5	Survey		Cut	Cut of Ditch	Pre-Historic	2
SJR 14	28	1	*		Layer	Topsoil	Modern	4
SJR 14	29	1	Survey		Layer	Natural Gravels	Natural	1
SJR 14	30	1	Survey		Fill	Fill of [31]	Pre-Historic	2
SJR 14	31	1	Survey		Cut	Cut of Pit	Pre-Historic	2
SJR 14	32	2/5	Survey		Fill	Fill of [33]	Pre-Historic	3
SJR 14	33	2/5	Survey		Cut	Cut of Pit	Pre-Historic	3
SJR 14	34	2/5	Survey		Fill	Fill of [35]	Pre-Historic	2
SJR 14	35	2/5	Survey		Cut	Cut of Pit	Pre-Historic	2
SJR 14	36	2/5	Survey		Fill	Fill of [37]	Pre-Historic	2
SJR 14	37	2/5	Survey		Cut	Cut of Posthole	Pre-Historic	2
SJR 14	38	2/5	Survey		Fill	Fill of [39]	Pre-Historic	2
SJR 14	39	2/5	Survey		Cut	Cut of Posthole	Pre-Historic	2
SJR 14	40	2/5	*		Layer	Brickearth	Natural	1
SJR 14	41	2/5	Survey		Layer	Natural Gravels	Natural	1

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: POTTERY QUANTIFICATION & DATE

James Gerrard

context	material	period	sherd count	weight	no. of bags	box no	date
3	pot	Roman	1	11g	1	1	43-250
7	Pot	Roman	146	3.411kg	5	1	120- 160/200
11	Pot	Roman	32	643g	2	2	70- 120/160
13	Pot	Roman	4	47g	1	2	43-200
17	Pot	Roman	9	1.045kg	2	2	43-200
32	Pot	Roman	1	48g	1	2	43-400

APPENDIX 4: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL SPOT DATES

Kevin Hayward

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
7	2815; 3004; 3023L; 3022; 3238; 3102	Large group of fragmentary tile, tegula and brick and daub. In a variety of early fabrics including Eccles; local iron oxide; Silty and Sandy	16	1500 bc	1664	1500bc	1664	71-160	No mortar
11	2815	Vitrified core Roman sandy tile	1	50	160	50	160	50-160+	No mortar
17	3033E	post medieval brick sunken margin Local very coarse sandy red brick	5	1450	1900	1450	1900	1600-1900	No mortar

Review

The assemblage (22 fragments 2.3kg) consists mainly of small pieces of fragmentary Roman ceramic building material (tile, tegula and brick) all from [7] [11] made from a variety of fabrics that characterise the Darent and Cray Valleys including Wealden Silty 3238 (AD71-100); Eccles 3022 (AD50-80); Local Iron oxide 3023 (AD50-120) (AD50-160), and especially the common sandy group 2815 (AD50-160). No bath-house material was recorded.

The sub-soil layer [17] consists of a very coarse red sandy brick 3033E which in the city of London normally dates to between 1450 and 1700. This far out, however, the brick continues to be manufactured into the 18th and 19th century (K. Sabel pers. obs.) and this group is likely to date from the later post medieval period.

Recommendations

The recovery of abraded fragments of typical Roman tile fabrics for the Darent and Cray Valleys should be seen as not at all surprising and may simply represent background dumping from an area e.g. Fordcroft Villa with a large period of Roman occupation. Their value lies simply in dating the sequence with a rich underlying Roman sequence. Only the sub-soil [17] was found to contain post Roman material Roman in the form of late post medieval locally produced brick. The potential of the assemblage only lies with the Roman group.

APPENDIX 5: STRUCK FLINT

Barry Bishop

Introduction

This report represents a brief and provisional account of 13 struck flints and a small quantity of unworked burnt flint recovered during an evaluation at the above site (see Catalogue, below).

Burnt Flint

Six pieces of burnt flint weighing 117g were recovered from three separate features. They had all been heated to a moderate or intense degree, resulting in fire-crazing and discolouration, and consistent with the pieces have been in a hearth. Although inherently undateable, burnt flint is most often recovered from sites that have witnessed prehistoric occupation.

Struck Flint

The raw material used to manufacture the struck flint assemblage consists of mottled grey / black flint with a weathered and abraded cortex, compatible with it being obtained from alluvial/colluvial deposits as are common in the vicinity. A single flake of 'bullhead' flint was also recovered. No typologically diagnostic pieces were present but the blades from contexts [17] and [18] are technologically most characteristic of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic industries. Most of the flakes, however, are thick and chunky, have wide unmodified striking platforms and demonstrate a rather crude or opportunistic approach to reduction. These, and most probably the two possible core fragments and the core tool, are much more comparable later prehistoric flintworking industries, particularly those dating to the later second or early first millennium BC.

Taken together, the assemblage can be regarded as reasonably large given the areas examined with the possibility that part of it is at least broadly contemporary with the prehistoric activity identified at the site. It is very comparable in raw material use and chronological distribution to many other assemblages recovered from the area, including those from excavations at Bellefield Road, Poverest Road and along Cray Avenue, and in conjunction with these suggests widespread and persistent prehistoric activity along the margins of the river Cray.

Catalogue

Context [3]

- Starch fractured pebble resembling a blade but entirely natural (discarded)

Context [7]

- Burnt alluvial pebble fragment weighing 27g (discarded)
- Decortication flake
- 4 large and somewhat crudely struck flakes
- 2 thermally fractured cobbles displaying some conchoidal surfaces, possibly disintegrated flake cores
- 7 thermally fractured flint pebble and cobble fragments (discarded)

Context [17]

- Large prismatic blade, possibly edge blunted but general condition precludes positive identification of deliberate retouch
- Plunged blade
- flake fragment of bullhead flint; flake in a very rolled condition
- two fragments of burnt flint weighing 42g (discarded);
- 18 thermally fractured angular pebbles (discarded)

Context [18]

- Proximal end of a large blade
- cortical flake of blade dimensions
- alluvial pebble with two flakes removed, possibly representing a chopping type core-tool

Context [30]

- 3 moderately burnt flint pebble fragments weighing 48g (discarded)

APPENDIX 6: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-170293

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at St Joseph's RC Church, High Street, St Mary Cray, London Borough of Bromley
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited between the 20th and 24th of January 2014 at St Joseph's RC Church, High Street St Mary Cray, London Borough of Bromley. Seven evaluation trenches were excavated upon the site prior to a proposed housing development. Archaeological features dating to Pre-Historic and Roman periods were recorded during the evaluation. All the features were underlain by the natural gravel deposits of the area.
Project dates	Start: 20-01-2014 End: 24-01-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	SJR 14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	DITCHES Late Prehistoric
Monument type	POSTHOLES Late Prehistoric
Monument type	PITS Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCHES Roman
Significant Finds	STRUCK FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	BUILDING MATERIAL Roman

Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Research
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BROMLEY ORPINGTON St Joseph's RC Church, High st, St Mary Cray
Postcode	BR5 4AD
Site coordinates	TQ 4711 6741 51.3861218432 0.11439756867 51 23 10 N 000 06 51 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 49.62m Max: 52.18m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	English Heritage
Project design originator	English Heritage
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Guy Seddon
Type of sponsor/funding body	Diocese
Name of	The Trustees of RC Diocese of Southwark

sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Local museum

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Local museum

Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Seddon, G.

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